Suzanne's Copy

THE HAMPDEN HIPPOCRAT

The Hampden District Medical Society Newsletter

President's message:

My Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to address you, the membership, at this important time of our profession. So many new technologies are on the horizon. I am of course thinking of the possibilities that lay ahead as gene therapy evolves and so many incurable diseases of today may finally be cured. People will live longer and hopefully better. The added financial impact it will have on the society as a whole can only be imagined. However, I am certain that our great profession will provide the necessary stewardship to lead the society towards universal healthcare access.

We must lead the society by providing appropriate counsel, as the public and politicians ponder on ways to restructure healthcare delivery to Americans. This would only be possible with a strong and united House of Medicine. I would like to appeal you to get involved in strengthening the House.

Foremost is membership, for without it we would have no standing. Let me suggest that our members recruit qualified nonmembers. Our 700 plus member district is active and vibrant, but additional members will bring more ideas to the table; not to mention the strength of numbers!

It is my hope that the future generations will find it desirable to enter our noble profession. It is a tough sell right now with so much negativity due to attacks on the very sacred doctor-patient relationship, mostly by managed care. Government has not made it any easier by its ever-increasing regulatory web.

There is hope! Recently enacted managed care reform at the state level is a welcome reprieve, thanks to the diligent work done by our colleagues at the Massachusetts Medical Society. More work needs to be done. The Patients' Bill of Rights has to become a law at the federal level. Antitrust exemptions we seek are reasonable and will level the playing field with managed care companies.
However, this effort is stalled in Congress due to lack of sponsors in the Senate at this time.

Our goal of making medical practice less cumbersome is attainable, but will only happen with group strength and support of our patients. To that end a Hassle Reduction Committee is being considered at the District level. Any suggestions and volunteers are welcome. Please call me or our Executive Director, Suzanne, at the District office.

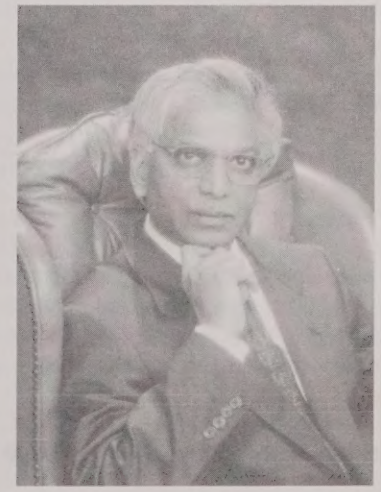
Our job is not accomplished until every citizen has access to affordable healthcare insurance. This must be one of high priority to all of us. Our advocacy and direction will be most important and necessary for policy development. Let us assume an active role in this most important dialogue.

Our senior physicians and their spouses need a place for discourse and a reinvigorated Hampden District Alliance will provide just that! Stay tuned.

Finally, may I suggest, a society is as good as its membership. So please, expand our base and enrich our ideas.

Thank You.

K.V.R. Mohan Rao, M.D.
President, Hampden District Medical Society
2000-2001



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HIPPOCRAT NEWSLETTER EDITOR:
Claudia L. Koppelman

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The "Hampden Hippocrat Newsletter" is the news organ of the Hampden District Medical Society and would like to become the forum for sharing information and opinions amongst the members, for whom it is being created. Any article printed expresses the opinion of the author and should not be construed to imply endorsement by the HDMS.

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MEMBER INTEREST NETWORKS (MINs)

Information Management and Communication Technology
Jeffrey C. Wint

HDMS Sponsored Activities
DATES TO REMEMBER 2000-2001

HDMS DISTRICT MEETINGS
January 30, 2001 Winter Meeting, Sheraton
May 1, 2001 Annual Meeting, Delaney House

HDMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS
(Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted at 6:30 p.m. at the HDMS office in West Springfield)
January 17, 2001
February *(No meeting)*
March 21, 2001
April 25, 2001 *(combined Delegates)*
Handbooks mailed April 20, 2001
May TBD

HDMS PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS
(Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted at 12:00 noon, at the HDMS office in West Springfield)
January 9, 2001
February *(No meeting)*
March 13, 2001
April 18, 2001
May 8, 2001
June 12, 2001

MMS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MMS HEADQUARTERS, WALTHAM 9:30 a.m.
December 13, 2000
February 14, 2001
March 14, 2001
April 11, 2001

HDMS RESOLUTION PLANNING MEETING FOR HDMS DELEGATES
April 25, 2001 (*Combined meeting with Executive Board)*
Handbooks mailed April 20, 2001
May TBD

MMS HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETINGS
Resolution deadline for the 2001 Annual Meeting,
March 26, 2001
Handbooks mailed April 20, 2001
2001 Annual Meeting The Boston Park Plaza Hotel
May 10 & 11, 2001

AMA LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE
March 3 – 6, 2001
Marriott Wordsman Park Hotel, Washington, D.C.

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LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be approximately 250 words or less, preferably typed in Word and on a disk. Please provide the full name and address of the writer along with a signature for verification. The paper copy of the letter must be enclosed. All letters are subject to editing.
Please **mail** them to:

The Hampden Hippocrat
1111 Elm Street, Suite 22
West Springfield, MA 01089

or **e-mail** to: **hampden@massmed.org**

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Editor's Notes:

It's been a hectic six months for HDMS. We have sponsored many events, created new awards recognizing our members achievements and installed a new computer system at the district office. The HDMS Auxiliary is being revitalized and services for our retired members are being developed.
Articles in this issue are varied and address the diversity of interests within the district.
We have included a listing of all HDMS members who participate in various committees at the District and State levels and welcome any member to contact the District Office who desires to be appointed to a committee.
Special permission was obtained from the MMS to print a legal article after the district office received a number of calls related to the topic of supervision of physician extenders to help educate our members regarding legal responsibilities.
Don't skip over the small notices throughout the newsletter informing members of new publications available from the MMS, tips for helping patients, and other interesting items.
Nominations for the "Community Clinician of the Year Award", can be submitted to the District Office in addition to nominations for District held offices and Delegates positions.

Respectfully presented to the members of HDMS,
Claudia Lynn Koppelman,M.D., Editor

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REBIRTH OF HDMS ALLIANCE

Society Holiday Spirit!

In keeping with the holiday spirit of giving, it is an Alliance tradition to support local shelters. The Hampden District Medical Society & the Massachusetts Medical Society hosted a holiday celebration on Tuesday, Dec 5, 2000. Invited guests were asked to bring a donation for the shelter.
Following dinner, the invited guests heard a presentation by Melinda Thomas, Development Coordinator of the Women's Shelter/ Companeras, and were treated to beauty make-overs by Karen Paulo, owner of Paulo's Salon & Spa in Chicopee, and chair massages by Lou LaMountain also of Chicopee. Hampden District provided gifts for all attendees. Door prizes awarded were donated to the shelter.
It is our hope that this will be the beginning of wonderful Alliance friendships, old and new…
A very special thank you to Joan Konefal for her most generous donation of "New Beginnings" items for the women's shelter. Joan sponsors a gift drive, during the holiday season, for the area women's shelters. Joan donated 25 gift bags filled with clothing from dresses, sweaters, and nightgowns to scarves & gloves, cosmetics, spa products, jewelry, cookies and chocolates. Joan said, " This is just a small way of letting a woman in need, know that there are women in the community who truly care & wish them success in their effort." Thank you Joan, for your generosity and compassion towards those in need.

The goals of the Auxiliary are:
To help the HDMS whenever possible
To participate in community health related projects
To offer social events to afford medical spouses to meet
To become informed on health related legislative Issues

HDMS WELCOMES ALL SPOUSES interested in participating in the Auxiliary. Please contact the District Staff to join.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
January 30, 2001

"Health Insurance for All Americans – Can We Do It? Should We Do It?"

Presented By: Richard F. Corlin
AMA President Elect

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES:

Richard F. Corlin., M.D.

President-Elect of the American Medical Association

Traditionally, the President-Elect of the American Medical Association speaks to the Hampden District Medical Society in January of each year.

This year, President-Elect Dr. Richard F. Corlin, a gastroenterologist in private practice in Santa Monica, California will be our guest. Dr. Corlin has served for nine years as a member and then Chair of the AMA Council on Long Range Planning and Development, Chair of the AMA Commission on Services to Young Physicians, Chair of the AMA Study Committee on Hospital Medical Staff, member and Chair of AMA reference committees, and as a member of the AD Hoc Committee on Physician Manpower from 1987 to 1988.

He served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Director of the National Institute of Health at the invitation of Louis Sullivan, Secretary of Health and Human Services, in 1992.

Dr. Corlin served as President of the California Medical Association (CMA) from 1992 to 1993, was Vice Speaker and Speaker of the CMA House of Delegates for nine years, and a member of its Board of Trustees for twelve years. He has chaired numerous committees of the CMA including the Finance Committee, the Liaison Committee to State Hospital Medical Staffs and was active as a member of the CMA Speakers Bureau on Tort Reform. Dr. Corlin also served as President of the Los Angeles County Medical Association from 1978 through 1979.

Dr. Corlin is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and a member of both the American Gastroenterology Association and the American Society of Internal Medicine. He served as President of the Southern California Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and is an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, Los Angeles School of Medicine.

Dr. Corlin, his wife Catherine, and their sons reside in Santa Monica.

!!!

Calling All Seniors!

The Hampden District Medical Society currently has nine Senior Physicians participating in the "Writing Your Lifestory" workshop which is open to all Senior members of the District.

The next workshop will be held on Monday, January 8, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served.

There is no cost to Senior members for this program.

The workshop is led by Dr. Robert Loesch, who guides the participants in practical principles and techniques for writing their own lifestories or those of family members or friends, based on the writing manual, Turning Memories Into Memoirs, by Denis Ledoux. Dr. Loesch is a free lance writer and active in the Greater Springfield Community.

Please call the District office at ***736-0661*** *to join the group!*

HIGH SCHOOL DOCTOR FOR A DAY PROGRAM

The High School Doctor for a Day Program is an educational opportunity designed to provide a mentoring experience, for serious high school students who are science oriented, during their critical decision-making years.

By participating in this program, students will have an opportunity to witness the practice of medicine and to observe the successful physicians who will be their mentors.

The program is designed to assist young people, especially those who have expressed an interest in medicine, to have an inside look into the complex healthcare environment.

If you would be interested in mentoring a high school student on March 15, 2001:
Please fill out the form below and

Mail to: Hampden District Medical Society
1111 Elm Street, Suite 22
West Springfield, MA 01089
or Fax: 413-731-8990
or e-mail information to: Hampden@massmed.org

High School Doctor for a Day Program

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Name:_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

Specialty:_____

Phone: Home#_____

Office#_____

COMPUTERS for SENIOR PHYSICIANS...

Any Senior member who wishes to be introduced to computers is invited to register for classes which will begin in February. The Hampden District Medical Society has teamed up with the Senior Net Learning Center at the Springfield Civic Center.
SeniorNet is a nationwide non profit organization, founded in 1986 to teach elder adults in a fun and friendly way. SeniorNet Learning Centers are now located throughout the United States. Through these centers, thousands of Seniors have become computer literate and able to use the information highway to stay in touch with their families and the world.
The SeniorNet Learning Center is a volunteer organization with a staff of over 50 computer literate adults. They have graduated over 400 Seniors.
Seniors, without regard to residence, are eligible to join the SeniorNet computer Learning Center. To take courses and use the computer lab, Seniors must join SeniorNet (Currently a $30 fee for all individuals). An additional fee will be charged for all courses.
Please call Suzanne Skibinski at 413-736-0661 for further information and to register.

$$$

Fall District Meeting

The Fall District meeting held on September 27th at the Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House, was attended by 127 members.
Dr. K.V.R. Mohan Rao, President, welcomed, Dr. Charles Welch, Vice President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, members and guests and presented certificates to new members attending.
Several of Hampden members were acknowledged for receiving both District and Massachusetts Medical Society awards.
The **1st Annual District, "Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes Stethoscope Award",** was given to Dr. Francis Riley. Dr. Riley, a retired Obstetrician and Gynecologist, was presented with an engraved silver tray. Candidates for this award are selected for their wit and philosophy of the practicing physician. Dr. Riley, like Dr. Holmes was born and raised in Boston.
Dr. Alonzo Sheffield was recognized as the Massachusetts Medical Society recipient of the, **"Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year Award"**. Candidates are nominated by their peers and selected by the Committee on Senior Volunteers.
Dr. Sheffield, a retired Gastroenterologist, accepted his award from Dr. Virginia Lathum, President of the Massachusetts Medical Society on September 28, 2000 at the Senior Forum, held at the MMS headquarters.
Another Hampden member recognized for receiving a Massachusetts Medical Society award was, Dr. Robert J. Kasper, a well know Surgeon. Dr. Kasper was presented the "Henry **Ingersoll Bowditch Award for Excellence in Public Health"**. This award was created under the auspices of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Public Health to recognize a Massachusetts physician who has demonstrated outstanding initiative, creativity and leadership in the field of public health outreach and advocacy.
Dr. Kasper's son, Dr. John Kasper accepted this award on behalf of his father, at the House of Delegates Interim meeting on November 2nd in Boston. Dr. Robert Kasper was unable to attend because he was on another mission to Jamaica.
After the awards presentation, Dr. Welch updated those present about important activities and initiatives occurring at the State level.
Following Dr. Welch's keynote address, Dr. Rao presented Dr. Welch with a much sought after HDMS embroidered logo fleece jacket.
The keynote speakers for the evening were Dr. Scott Reubin and Frank Lombardo. Dr. Scott Reubin of Baystate Medical Center's, Acute Pain Center presented his program, "Organization Barriers to Effective Pain Management", followed by "DEA Presentation & Perspective" by Frank Lombardo, Investigator from the United States Department of Justice, Division of Drug Enforcement.
Participants were enlightened about the advantages of using preemptive analgesia, NSAIDS and pain control. In addition, a wonderful discussion ensued pertaining to narcotic prescribing, potential problems of narcotics in relationship to a physician's office, and physician impairment. DEA 2000 expected changes and a list of prescription drugs in most demand on the street concluded the CME program which was cosponsored by the MMS and awarded those physicians attending 2 hours in Category 1 Credit.

Dr. K.V.R. Mohan Rao, HDMS President, presents Dr. Francis J. Riley an engraved silver platter.

**Francis James Riley, M.D.
1st Recipient of "Hampden District Medical Society Oliver Wendell Holmes, M.D. Stethoscope Award"**

The world has come to know the wit and philosophy of "Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes" and many would say, Dr. Francis Riley could be his reincarnation. Francis J. Riley, M.D., a thirty-six year member of the Hampden District Medical Society has been chosen as the first recipient of the Society's "Oliver Wendell Holmes, M.D. Stethoscope Award".
Born in Brighton, MA, he was raised in West Roxbury and graduated from the Boston Latin School. He attended Harvard College. After three semesters there, he was accepted at Harvard Medical School at the age of 18. Upon graduating from Harvard in 1949 he began his internship at Walter Reed General Hospital followed by three years with the US Medical Corps in Germany. Returning to the United States, he completed residencies at Saint Louis Maternity Hospital and New York Lying-in Hospital.
As Medical Director of Wesson Maternity Hospital, he headed a new comprehensive post-partum clinic in 1968. "The aim of the clinic is to personalize the medical care and education of the patient. It is already obvious that like all the rest of us, the patients respond well to individual treatment." (Quote of Doctor Riley from the October 1968 issue of "the Crib Sheet".)
Doctor Riley, who closed his practice in obstetrics and gynecology in 1994, remains an active member of the Society. Currently the chairman of the Hampden District Medical Society Public Health Committee, Doctor Riley has served in this capacity for the last thirteen years.
Doctor Riley also serves as a reviewer for MASS PRO, the peer review organization of the Massachusetts Medical Society. Beginning his service on November 16, 1993, Doctor Riley performed field reviews until they were discontinued in 1998. He currently spends one full day each week as a reviewer at the MASS PRO office in Waltham. Until recently he served as Medical Director at Springfield College.
According to his wife Marion, "He never intends to retire, he's passionate about medicine, his lifelong dedication." Doctor Riley and his wife have eight children.

"I am astounded!"

Hampden District Medical Society

1111 ELM STREET
WEST SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01089-1540
TEL.: (413) 736-0661 • FAX: (413) 731-8990
Email: hampden@massmed.org

Member Questionaire

The Hampden District Medical Society Executive Committee would like to encourage all members who are interested in becoming more involved in shaping our future to not be shy and let us know.
Share your ideas or your time or both.
Participation is the key to explore opportunities which will make a difference in the lives of our patients, physicians and the practice of medicine. With videoconferencing technology available from Holyoke to headquarters in Waltham, having your voice heard is now as easy as making a phone call. Get involved, help create the future.
"A volunteer member organization is only as good as it's members make it.."

Please indicate if interested in participating in any of the following committees or positions.

District Committees/ Positions:

- ☐ Executive
- ☐ Medico-Legal
- ☐ Medico-Religious
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Nominations
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Auditing
- ☐ By Laws
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Hampden Delegate: MMS House of Delegates
- ☐ District Trustee to the MMS Board of Trustees (must be a Delegate)

Officer Positions:

- ☐ President Elect
- ☐ Vice President
- ☐ Treasurer
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Assistant Secretary

State Committees: District Appointed:

- ☐ Legislation
- ☐ Tax Supported Medical Care
- ☐ Nominations

State Committees: Committee members are appointed by the MMS President Elect from District submitted names.
***There are 35 different committees. For a full list of opportunities to become involved, contact Suzanne Skibinski at the Disitrict office. Presently Hampden District Members have appointments to the following committees.**

- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Geriatric Medicine
- ☐ Information Technology
- ☐ Managed Care
- ☐ Maternal & Perinatal
- ☐ Public Relations
- ☐ Sponsored Programs
- ☐ Student Health & Sports Medicine
- ☐ Violence
- ☐ Women in Organized Medicine
- ☐ Young Physicians
- ☐ Impaired
- ☐ Task Force on Physician Profiling

State Positions:

- ☐ Massachusetts AMA Delegate/Alternate Delegate
- ☐ Organized Medical Staff Section Representative (OMSS) (Hospital_____)

To increase the efficiency of our staff and monies please provide the following:

Name_____

Mailing Address_____

Phone (office)_____ (home)_____ Fax (___)_____ E-mail_____

HDMS and the MMS are member governed organizations. Physician members representing all physicians are working together proactively to protect the health and welfare of the patients and physicians of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
(member questionnaire, C/RC/Membership)

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OPEN HOUSES
10 am - 2 pm

Tuesday, May 2 • Thursday, May 11
Saturday, May 13 (11:00 am- 1:00 pm)
Tuesday, May 16 • Thursday, May 25
Tuesday, May 30

REFRESHMENTS
R.S.V.P. - Peck Buckley (413) 538-7551

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- **Advanced Dementia Care** - 41-bed unit opening in October 2000 to provide appropriate care for persons with advanced dementia.
- **Hospice** - team approach to end of life nursing care with an emphasis on preserving the quality of life for the terminally ill resident
- **Long-term Care** - comprehensive medical, nursing and rehabilitative services to facilitate optimum independence and quality of life for those individuals admitted to our care.

East Longmeadow Skilled Nursing Center
305 Maple Street
East Longmeadow, MA 01028
413 - 525 - 6361

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The 2000 Henry Ingersoll Bowditch Award for Excellence in Public Health Awarded to

Charles Welch, M.D., MMS V.P. presents Robert J. Kasper, M.D. with a mortar and pestle at the Fall District Meeting, as a momento from the Hampden District Medical Society of his prestigious MMS award.

The Massachusetts Medical Society is proud to recognize Robert J. Kasper, M.D., as the recipient of the 2000 Henry Ingersoll Bowditch Award for Excellence in Public Health. This award was created under the auspices of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Committee on Public Health (now the Public Health Member Interest Network Executive Council) to recognize a Massachusetts physician who has demonstrated outstanding initiative, creativity and leadership in the field of public health outreach and advocacy. The award is named after Henry Ingersoll Bowditch, M.D., a leading figure in medicine and public health in the 19th century, who championed the causes of the poor and oppressed.

Robert J. Kasper, M.D., is a caring physician, a skilled surgeon and an inspirational leader who has devoted the majority of his career to providing medical and surgical care in developing countries. A physician for more than 30 years, Dr. Kasper demonstrates the same compassion and commitment to all of the patients he cares for – whether in his medical practice in Springfield or in free clinics in third-world countries.

After completing his surgical residency, Dr. Kasper became involved with Medical Missions International (MMI), the world's largest short-term, volunteer, Christian medical mission, with more than 3,000 participants annually working in more than 35 countries. For the past 25 years, he has volunteered his time two to three times a year on two-week projects to impoverished areas, including Central and South America and the Caribbean. Dr. Kasper has coordinated and served on approximately 40 mission trips, ministering to the physical needs of people who could not otherwise afford medical services. As a medical director for these trips, he leads and organizes a team of up to 100 physicians, nurses and allied health professionals, coordinating surgery at the hospital and medical care at medical, dental and eyeglass clinics.

Dr. Kasper's generosity in the giving of his time, money and expertise is truly remarkable. In addition to volunteering his time and paying his own way on several mission trips per year, he coordinates many projects he is unable to attend. And his dedication to helping developing countries goes even further. Dr. Kasper built a warehouse on his property that serves as a collection point for donated medical supplies and recently shipped a tractor-trailer full of supplies for relief efforts following Hurricane Gilbert. His current project is overseeing the construction of a medical supply storage building on land that he purchased in Jamaica.

Dr. Kasper is a valued leader who has served at the organizational level of MMI and recently completed a three-year term as Chairman of the Board. As a mentor, he has opened the doors for many young people considering a career in medicine and has been an outstanding role model to his colleagues and other medical volunteers who have served with him on mission trips.

Educated at the State University of New York – Upstate Medical Center, Dr. Kasper has been a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society since 1974 and is an active member of the Hampden District Ethics Committee.

Dr. Kasper was also honored at the Interim Meeting of the MMS. His son accepted the Award on his behalf as Dr. Kasper was away on one of his missions.

Dr. John Kasper accepted the award for his father, Dr. Robert J. Kasper at the MMS November House of Delegates Meeting in Boston. He is pictured with his grandparents and delegates from HDMS.

****

MMS 2000 Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year!

2000 marked the fifth year that the MMS Committee on Senior Volunteer Physicians recognized a deserving senior volunteer. ***Dr. Alonzo D. Sheffield,*** a Hampden member, received the prestigious, MMS 2000 Senior Volunteer Physician of the Year Award. For several years, Dr. Sheffield has demonstrated his commitment to volunteering and dedication to sharing his experience and medical expertise in the Springfield area.

Dr. Sheffield was honored at the Fall Senior Volunteer Forum at MMS Headquarters.

Sixteenth Annual Medical Ethics Seminar

The "Sixteenth Annual Medical Ethics Seminar", titled, "Pain Management, An Integrated Approach", was held at Mercy Hospital, the Deliso Conference Center on Wednesday, October 25, 2000. The program, was a big success with 175 in attendance.

Our keynote speaker was Dr. Lauren Shaiova from the Department of Pain Management and Palliative Care at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York. Dr. Shaiova's presentation focused on an integrated approach to pain management. She described suitable opioids for chronic pain and discussed adjuvant therapies for pain management.

The distinguished panel, who were excellent in presenting a multidisciplinary approach, consisted of, Glen Fagen, Ph.D., Clinical Manager of the Department of Psychology at Mercy Hospital, Anne Franczyk, RN, MS, an Acute Care Nurse and Practitioner and Suzanne Nolan, M.A., Chaplain. Dr. Alfred Lang McKee, Jr. from Baystate Medical Center's Palliative Medicine and Pain Management Center was Moderator.

The Seminar was cosponsored by Mercy Hospital and participants were awarded Physicians, Nurses, Social Workers and Nursing Home Administrators continuing educational credits.

Dr. Roland Stebbins, who has chaired the Medical Religious Committee for several years has retired and will be spending his winters in Florida. We all wish Dr. Stebbins a great retirement.

Dr. Winthrop Whitcomb, has graciously accepted to chair this Committee. Dr. Whitcomb is Director of Internal Medicine Services at Mercy Hospital.

Hampden District Medical Society 6th Annual "Girl Scouts of Today, Physicians of Tomorrow" Program

The *"Girl Scouts of Today, Physicians of Tomorrow"* mentoring program was developed by the American Medical Association's Advisory Panel on Women Physician Issues and the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Participating Girl Scouts explored their interest in medicine after being matched with a local woman physician who volunteered to host a Girl Scout for a day on the job.

Mercy Hospital was the setting for the 6th Annual event on June 29, 2000 for the orientation breakfast and the debriefing reception. Dr. Alicia O. M. Ross was chair for the program and acted as a mentor for two of the Girl Scouts. Nine other Hampden District women physicians volunteered as mentors for the day. Those participating in the program were: Dr. Natalie Savich-Komaiszko, Dr. Karen M. Ferroni, Dr. Nancy L. Weiss, Dr. Lucy Bayer-Zwirello, Dr. Charlene Case, Dr. Heather Z. Sankey, Dr. Teresa K. Mitchell, Dr. Catherine M. Hegarty, and Dr. Maura Jo Brennan.

The District wishes to extend a special thank you to the eleven physicians who graciously accepted the responsibility of providing a mentoring experience in medicine to the ten Girl Scouts chosen to participate in the program.

The year 2001 will mark the 1st year of a new mentoring program the District will be offering. The *"High School Doctor for a Day"* Program will be offered to area high school students, who have exhibited a strong aptitude in the sciences. It will be open to both boys and girls in their junior and senior years. Any Hampden District member may serve as a volunteer physician mentor. *"The High School Doctor for a Day"* Program is scheduled for March 7, 2001.

Dr. Alicia O.M. Ross will chair the event.

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 30, 2001
HDMS WINTER DISTRICT MEETING

Physicians Profiling Focus Group

The Massachusetts Medical Society held meetings in its regional office on July 17, 2000, in order to assess the reactions of its members to physician profiling efforts to this point and to get their input into how the process can be improved. Eight physicians from Western Massachusetts, as well as staff from the District and State Societies met for two hours at the Holyoke regional office for a spirited exchange that, though peppered with anecdotal and personal vignettes, generally reflected the following:

Profiling has been corrupted by payers into a means to ratchet down their expenses rather than as a process aimed at improving either quality or cost-effectiveness. This economic motivation has had, indeed, the opposite effect, leading patients to lose trust in their physicians and physicians to question whether they can safely advocate for the best treatment for their patients.

Most physicians realize that the days of absolute physician autonomy are long gone and that guidelines from the Specialty Societies and reminders from HMO's and other payers about needed preventive and other services are helpful. It is disturbing, however, to get warnings, often based on faulty information, that one is simply a dollar over the average cost per patient and therefore had best mend one's way.

Most payor efforts at profiling have been directed at primary care physicians, while most helpful benchmarks and guidelines have been physician-initiated and are aimed at both specialists and primary care physicians. Cooperation with payers or payor groups is therefore seen as compromising the profession's ethical path; the Massachusetts Medical Society should leave the development of guidelines or standards to the Specialty Societies and simply back the latter up in any conflicts with payor "profiling," including exposing the truth to the public.

District members attending were:

Richard Anderson, Maura Jo Brennan, Enzo DiGiacomo, Dennis Gordan, Claudia L. Koppelman, Mark Sherman, James A. Soloman and James K. Wang.

Submitted by: Dennis S. Gordan

HDMS Hassle Factor Committee

Hassles with third party payers are an annoying but ever present part of modern medicine. Unfortunately, so is the process of arguing with an insurance company clerk about payment denial based on a technical error on a claim form, or over the necessity of a medical procedure that the individual on the phone cannot even pronounce. Where can a physician turn? K.V.R. Mohan Rao, M.D., President, would like to form a Hassle Factor Committee at the District level. The program is designed to help physicians to cut through red tape and resolve problems with third party payers.

The Hassle Factor Committee will work with MMS to resolve the difficulties faced by HDMS physicians regarding claim problems, red tape, and unnecessary claims denials.

Physicians will be asked to document, on Hassle Factor Forms, the problems they are having with third party plans and then submit these forms to HDMS.

Please call Suzanne Skibinski, Executive Director, at 413-736-0661 if you'd like to serve on the Committee.

Important Notice to All Physicians…

Free Drug Assistance Programs for Indigent Patients Assistance for patients and doctors is available through the *Serving Health Information Needs of the Elders (SHINE) Program. For* **more info call:**

1-800-882-2003 / TTY: 1-800-872-0166

THE LEGAL ADVISOR

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Massachusetts Medical Society's Legal Advisory Plan

VOLUME VII, NUMBER 2 – DECEMBER 1999

Working with Nurse Practitioners – Legal Requirements

NURSE PRACTITIONERS IN TODAY'S MEDICAL COMMUNITY are an integral part of the delivery of health care. Familiarity with the regulations which outline the scope of a nurse practitioner's practice and the supervision responsibilities of physicians is essential. This newsletter seeks to highlight some of the important issues that physicians must be aware of when utilizing nurse practitioners in an office setting. This newsletter does not address psychiatric nurse mental health clinical specialists, nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives, all of whom are subject to additional, specialized regulations.

How Do Nurse Practitioners Differ From Other Licensed Nurses?

All nurses must be licensed by the Board of Registration in Nursing (BRN) and state law and regulations govern their conduct. Both licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and registered nurses (RNs) may develop and implement a plan of nursing care, including thee management of resources. Both LPNs and RNs can delegate nursing activities to other health care personnel provided that the delegating nurse is responsible for making appropriate assignments, providing proper supervision, following through on delegations, and collaborating with other health care providers as appropriate. Additionally, all nurses licensed to practice nursing are directly accountable and bear "full and ultimate responsibility" for the safety and quality of the nursing care that he or she delivers.

NPs, also known as nurses practicing in an expanded role, are RNs with advanced degrees who are specifically authorized by the BRN to provide health care beyond that which an LP or RN may Perform. Working with physicians, NPs may assess the health of a patient by taking a history, perform physical exams, diagnose health and developmental problems, care for patients with acute or chronic diseases by managing therapeutic regimes, order and interpret tests and therapeutics, and prescribe medications. NPs must properly identify themselves as such by posting appropriate signs, wearing an identification badge, and employing appropriate stationary. The BRN may require advanced practice nurses to have professional malpractice liability insurance; however, a supervising physician shall not utilize an NP under special guidelines (see below) unless the nurse has malpractice liability insurance of at least $100,000 per claim and $300,000 in the aggregate.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICIAN SUPERVISION OF NURSE PRACTITIONERS?

There is no set limit to the number of Nurse Practitioners whom a physician may supervise. However, NPs must practice in accordance with written guidelines developed by the NP and a fully licensed physician who is either Board certified or has admitting privileges in the NPs specialty. In addition to designating a supervising physician who will provide medical direction as is customary in the NPs area of practice, the written guidelines must 1) describe the nature and scope of the nurse practitioner's practice; 2) describe when a physician's consultation is required; 3) describe the use of established procedures for treatment of common medical conditions; 4) describe provisions for managing emergencies; 5) include a mechanism for monitoring and reviewing prescribing practices including documenting of that review with a physician every three months; 6) include protocols for initiating IV therapy or prescribing Schedule II drugs; 7) specify frequency of review of the prescription of controlled substances, and 8) conform to M.G.L. c. 94C, 105 Code Mass. Regs. 700.000, et seq., (prescribing narcotics) and M.G.L. c. 112, #80E and 80G (licensing and supervising nurses).

These guidelines are public documents and NPs are required to make copies of the guidelines available to any person upon request. A physician's or NP's failure to provide the guidelines to the Board of Registration in Medicine (BRM) or the BRN upon request may result in disciplinary action. The BRM may also request documentation of the physician's review of the NP's prescriptive practice.

Can Nurse Practitioners Prescribe Medications?

NPs may issue written prescriptions and medication orders for Schedule II through VI controlled substances as long as they 1) meet the requirements of the BRN; 2) are properly registered with the FDA and the DEA; 3) practice in accordance with the written guidelines referenced above, and 4) comply with all applicable state and federal controlled substance laws.

All prescriptions for Schedule II drugs must be reviewed by a supervising physician within 72 hours of issuance, and the supervising physician must review the NP's prescriptive practice at least every three months. NPs may issue oral prescriptions to a pharmacist in accordance with M.G.L. C. 94C, #20, provided that he or she clearly identifies himself or herself as an NP and gives his or her own name, work address, phone number, registration number, and the name of the supervising physician. To ensure that a NP is providing patient care in accordance with acceptable standards of practice, a physician must supervise a NP engaged in prescriptive practice as is necessary, taking into account his or her education, experience, the nature of the practice, and the availability of physician back up. A physician should only sign prescriptive practice guidelines if he or she is able to provide the necessary supervision of the NP considering the physician's geographical proximity, practice setting, volume and complexity of the patient population, and the experience, training, and availability of the supervising physician.

(For a subscription to the "The Legal Advisor" or for information please contact: Steven Phelan at 1-800-322-2303)

**This article was a reprint from the publication issued quarterly by the Massachusetts Medical Society and Anderson, Adler, Cohen, And Harvey LLP, as an information source for Legal Advisory Plan members. Nothing herein should be construed as legal advice or legal opinions regarding specific situations. Legal counsel should be consulted for application of law and regulations in each individual case before any action is taken or any decision is made.*

Medical Malpractice Tribunal

Volunteers Needed

The Medical Malpractice Tribunal has been operating in Massachusetts for twenty-five years. Your Participation in the tribunal system is essential for the timely and cost-effective elimination of frivolous lawsuits against physicians.

Tribunals, comprised of a judge, an attorney, and a volunteer physician, determine whether a medical malpractice plaintiff has alleged sufficient facts for a trial to go forward. If the tribunal finds that a matter should be dismissed, the plaintiff must file a $6,000 bond to proceed through the judicial process.

Individuals generally are asked to serve no more than once or twice a year for just a few hours. Tribunal service is a tangible way both to assist fellow physicians and to support this important control on the rising costs of medical malpractice litigation.

The MMS is charged under state statute with maintaining the list of tribunal volunteers for the Commonwealth. We are currently updating the list, and are seeking your participation.

It is important that you should maintain an active medical license in Massachusetts to participate.

Please contact the MMS Legal Services Department at 1-800-322-2303 or by fax at (781) 893-9369 to volunteer. If you would like to learn more about tribunal service, please request the MMS's short instructional videotape when you call or fax.

(Article reprinted from the *MMS Vital Signs Newsletter.)*

Snowflakes... different each one
Joined together... transforms our world
Alone.... simply a snowflake that melts
clk

New MMS Reporting Brochure

A newly-published brochure entitled *Reporting of Patient Diseases, Conditions, and Occurrences,* prepared by the MMS Legal Services Department is now available. An informational guide for physicians on their legal reporting obligations, this booklet covers conditions such as abuse, HIV-infection, and gunshot wounds. The brochure is downloadable from the MMS Web-Site for easy member access; members can also obtain a print copy **FREE** from the MMS Department of Legal Services at 1-800-322-2303 or fvestini@mms.org.

BLAST FROM THE PAST-> FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE NEWS:

While cleaning and organizing the district office this summer our Executive Director found a fifty year old copy of the "Hampden Hippocrat". With permission from the MMS we reprint the lead article. There are many lessons to learn from the past... if only people would heed the words.

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII **WINTER, 1950** **Number 8**

Where Are We Going?

By

Arthur W. Allen, M.D.
President of The Massachusetts Medical Society

I would like to bring before the membership of the Hampden District Medical Society a few salient facts that deeply concern you as American citizens. Physicians are prone to go their own way, taking care of the sick to the best of their ability and allowing other people to interest themselves in government, but we are affected by changes that influence our lives as much and often times more than the average citizen.

The American people have available to them the best medical care of any people in the world. This has been brought about by the voluntary efforts of American medicine working in a free society. The American Medical Association has sponsored standards for our medical schools that now allow only qualified physicians to become practitioners. The American College of Surgeons has standardized the hospitals. Improvement in medical care and scientific advances are progressing at a faster rate than can be found elsewhere in the world.

In spite of these facts, strong efforts are being made to change our American way of life. Powerful forces are determined to bring about a regimented, bureaucratic control of medical care. Our proponents of compulsory tax supported old age security, unemployment insurance, subsidies of the farmer and medical care try to give it less offensive titles but it is socialism nevertheless.

Since Bismark, in the early 1880's, devised government controlled medicine to increase state funds, the scheme has been tried by some of the major and many of the minor nations. In all of the larger countries it has failed and in small closely compact nations, where it works best, it still is not as good as our present American system. In England it is, up to now, a failure. More people may be getting some care that they could not have before but the average quality of care is not as good. Those who really need medical care are prevented from getting it because of hypochondriacs and the chiseler.

I am reliably informed that the average British physician receives less income from a 100-hour week than the London dock worker gets for a 40-hour week.

Federal controlled projects are frightfully expensive. In Detroit an able-bodied man with several children has drawn over $70,000.00 in unemployment relief funds since 1935. Thousands of persons reaching the age of 65 find they are not eligible for the old age pension for one reason or another, in spite of the fact that they have been paying into it for years. The Grange and other farmers' organizations are unhappy about the wasteful and extravagant subsidies that now exist. The people would complain volubly about the inadequacies of government medicine.

Fifty-two million people in the United States now have some form of voluntary insurance against medical and hospital bills. The idea is growing rapidly and is sound in principle and in accordance with the American way of life.

At the present rate our national debt will completely ruin this country in less than a quarter of a century. Obligations that we are making will be paid for by future generations.

We should adopt a firm business policy and pay as we go. Every able-bodied citizen should contribute to a plan that is actuarially sound. Voluntary insurance can cover the 70 percent of the population that is working. The 15 percent who are indigent can be taken care of by the same insurance policies paid for by welfare at the local level. Federal taxes could justifiably be used to augment local and state funds for these purposes where needed. The remaining 15 percent are now able to write their own insurance, and take care of their own social and medical obligations.

If you question my remarks you should read "The Road Ahead" by John T. Flynn. If every citizen would read this book the politicians could not destroy these United States of America.

Obituaries

November 20, 1945 – June 5, 2000

Michael A. Geha, M.D. died at his home in Hampden, where he lived for the past seven years. He practiced in Springfield since 1975, as a physician at the Hampden County Jail, as the medical director of Pioneer Health in Holyoke, and as a partner in the Family Care Medical Center for the last ten years.

Born in Detroit, he graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967 and Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1971, completing his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in endocrinology at Baystate Medical Center.

September 12, 1907 – August 18, 2000

Ellis Joffe, M.D., a lifelong physician in Holyoke, died at his home in Williamstown. He practiced internal medical and cardiology until his retirement in 1984. He had also practiced medicine in Shanghai, China. Born in Moscow, Russia, he graduated from the University of Brussels in Belgium. He was a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and a member of the Springfield Academy of Medicine and the American Heart Association.

October 26, 1939 – November 24, 2000

Bernard Pleet, M.D. passed away on November 24, 2000. He was Chief of Neurology at Baystate Medical Center since 1988. He was also a professor of neurology at Tufts Medical School. He graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He served in the Vietnam War and attained the rank of Captain during his 22 years of active service. Dr. Pleet was the author of several medical textbooks.

August 27, 1015 – November 25, 2000

John F. Appel, M.D., a longtime area doctor, died on November 25, 2000. Dr. Appel was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College and was a resident physician at the Soldiers' Home Hospital in Chelsea. He worked at Holyoke Hospital for 35 years and lectured registered and student nurses. He was President of the Medical Staff and Chief of Medicine at both Holyoke and Providence Hospitals. Dr. Appel was honored in 1997 as being a 50 Year Member of the Society.

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Jonna I. Gaberman
Ricardo J. Monserrate
Ingrid Elizabeth Statz
Norma M. Rivera-Opio
Shaukat Matin
Glen Fandetti
Lindsey Rockwell
Suzana Makowski
Zhongmo Yu
Eli Gil Kramer
Diego Antonio Morreale
Jonathan S. Lovins
Kenneth Santiago
Shamim Najeebi
Niloufor Shoushtari
Alan A. Lareau

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED:

DERMATOLOGY
Rachel A. Ivker

ONCOLOGY
Deborah Katz
Wilson C. Mertens

OB/GYN
Kevin Walencka
David E. Seubert

PSYCHIATRY
Kim Gaitskill

PEDIATRICS
Maria D. Hill
Anne F. Josephs
Joseph Scaramozza
Anita E. Tsen
Sandra A. Rolston
James A. Bell
Nancy Dunbar

ANESTHESIOLOGY
Jan Gotta
Venkata A. Komanduri
Lakshmi Madabhushi
Peter A Vieira
Arul Verghis

NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY
Mark R. McLaughlin

ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY
Paul Allen Koerner

PLASITC SURGERY
Melissa Ann Johnson

GENERAL SURGERY
Richard Thomas Martin
Bradford Clayton Gray
Lawrence Thomas Volz

RADIOLOGY
Julia Gates
George Gordon Hartnell

PATHOLOGY
Jiuming Ye

EMERGENCY MEDICINE
Michael J. Moriarty

PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION
Ann Maria Elder

TRANSITIONAL YEAR
Issam M. Almashharawi
Mary Alice Abbott

STUDENTS
David R. Remis
Kristina M. Galarneau

HDMS PROUDLY WELCOMES OUR PROFESSIONAL COLLEAGUES

The Officers, Executive Committee and Staff of
Hampden District Medical Society
wish everyone a safe and healthy Holiday Season!!!

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The WINTER edition of "The Hampden Hippocrat" will be published in March 2001. Articles, announcements, interesting stories and information to share with HDMS members may be submitted for publication consideration to the: "The Hampden Hippocrat" Editor HDMS 1111 Elm Street Suite 22 West Springfield, Ma 01089-1540 or e-mail your material to: hampden@massmed.org

HAMPDEN DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY / MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY
PHYSICIANS CARING FOR THE CITIZENS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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